

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following paragraphs after the paragraph starting on page 3, line 6, and before the section entitled "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS":

"In accordance with a broad aspect, the invention provides a freeze control system for a spa. The freeze control system comprises a temperature sensor suitable for obtaining a measurement of an ambient air temperature near the spa and a spa controller in communication with the temperature sensor for receiving a signal conveying the measurement of the ambient air temperature near the spa. The spa controller is programmed for processing the signal to derive a rate of purge data element associated to a certain ambient air temperature. The spa controller is also programmed for, at least in part on the basis of the rate of purge data element, repetitively causing at least one pump of the spa to be activated for a certain time period and then deactivated, such as to repetitively cause the at least one pump of the spa to run for the certain time period.

In accordance with another board aspect, the invention provides a spa system having water freeze control capabilities. The spa system comprises a spa tub for holding water, a water heater, spa piping interconnecting the spa tub and the water heater, the spa piping including at least one pump for circulating water between the water heater and the spa tub. The spa system also comprises a temperature sensor suitable for obtaining a measurement of an ambient air temperature near the spa system. The spa system also comprises a spa controller in communication with the temperature sensor for receiving a signal conveying the measurement of the ambient air temperature near said spa system. The spa controller is programmed for processing the signal conveying the measurement of the ambient air temperature near the spa system to derive a rate of purge data element, the rate of purge data element being associated to a certain ambient air temperature. At least in part on the basis of the rate of purge data element, the spa controller is programmed for repetitively causing the at least one pump of the spa to be activated for a certain time period and then deactivated, such as to repetitively cause the at least one pump of the spa to run for the certain time period.

In accordance with another broad aspect, the invention provides a method for preventing water from freezing in piping associated to a spa system. The method comprises obtaining a measurement of an ambient air temperature near the spa system and processing the measurement to derive a rate of purge data element associated to a certain ambient air temperature. The method also comprises, at least in part on the basis of the rate of purge data element, repetitively causing at least one pump of the spa system to be activated for a certain time period and then deactivated.

In accordance with another broad aspect, the invention provides a freeze control system for a spa. The freeze control system comprises means for obtaining a measurement of an ambient air temperature near the spa and means for processing the measurement to derive a rate of purge data element. The freeze control system also comprises means for repetitively causing, at least in part on the basis of the rate of purge data element, at least one pump of the spa to be activated for a certain time period and then deactivated, such as to repetitively cause the at least one pump of the spa to run for the certain time period.

In accordance with yet another broad aspect, the invention provides a freeze control system for a spa. The freeze control system comprises a temperature sensor suitable for obtaining a measurement of an ambient air temperature near the spa. The freeze control system also comprises a spa controller in communication with the temperature sensor for receiving a signal conveying the measurement of the ambient air temperature near the spa. The spa controller is programmed for repetitively causing at least one pump of the spa to be activated for a certain time period and then deactivated at a repetition rate conditioned at least in part on the basis of the measurement associated to an ambient air temperature near the spa.

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Please replace the table appearing at page 5, line 9, which it captioned “TABLE 1” with the following table:

TABLE 1

Ambient air Temperature	<u>Rate of purge</u> Conduct a 1 minute purge every
40 deg. F.	2 hours
28 deg. F.	1 hour
14 deg. F.	30 minutes
5 deg. F.	15 minutes

Please replace the table appearing at page 6, line 10, which it captioned "TABLE 2" with the following table:

TABLE 2

Temp at sensor 17	Ambient air Temperature	<u>Rate of purge</u> Conduct a 1 minute purge every
68 deg. F.	40 deg. F.	2 hours
59 deg. F.	28 deg. F.	1 hour
54 deg. F.	14 deg. F.	30 minutes
50 deg. F.	5 deg. F.	15 minutes